

That which is claimed is:

1. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

5 a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall plate to removably mount the housing to the wall plate;

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto, the cover and the base defining a cavity therebetween;

a filter circuit disposed within the cavity;

10 a phone jack disposed within the cavity and accessible through the cover;

at least one auxiliary jack disposed within the cavity and accessible through the cover; and

a line cord comprising at least one wire pair electrically connected to the phone jack and the auxiliary jack;

15 wherein the housing is removably mounted to the wall plate without the use of a tool.

2. A housing according to claim 1 wherein the at least one mounting stud of the wall plate comprises an upper mounting stud and a lower mounting stud and wherein
20 the slot of the base comprises an upper slot and a lower slot for receiving the upper mounting stud and the lower mounting stud, respectively, of the wall plate.

3. A housing according to claim 1 wherein the cover comprises at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom for removably mounting a wall-mount telephone to the housing.

5 4. A housing according to claim 3 wherein the at least one mounting stud of the cover comprises an upper mounting stud and a lower mounting stud and the wall-mount telephone has an upper slot and a lower slot for receiving the upper mounting stud and the lower mounting stud, respectively, of the cover to removably mount the wall-mount telephone to the housing.

10 5. A housing according to claim 1 wherein the at least one auxiliary jack comprises a secondary phone jack and a digital subscriber line ("DSL") jack.

15 6. A housing according to claim 5 wherein the filter circuit delivers a filtered voice signal to at least one of the phone jack, the secondary phone jack and the DSL jack.

20 7. A housing according to claim 1 wherein the line cord comprises a phone plug attached at one end and wherein a portion of the line cord and the phone plug extend outwardly through an opening formed in the base of the housing.

8. A housing according to claim 7 wherein the phone plug is electrically connected to a phone jack on the wall plate and the phone jack of the housing is electrically connected to a wall-mount telephone.

5 9. A housing according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of wire terminating devices selected from the group consisting of screw terminals, insulation displacement contacts (IDCs”) and solder points.

10 10. A housing according to claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism for securing the housing to the wall plate and wherein the locking mechanism is movable between an unlocked position and a locked position without the use of a tool.

11. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

15 a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall plate to removably mount the housing to the wall plate; and

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto, the cover having at least one viewing window for viewing the mounting stud of the wall plate while the housing is attached to the wall plate.

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12. A housing according to claim 11 wherein the at least one mounting stud of the wall plate comprises an upper mounting stud and a lower mounting stud and wherein the at least one viewing window of the cover comprises an upper window for viewing

the upper mounting stud of the wall plate and a lower window for viewing the lower mounting stud of the wall plate.

13. A housing according to claim 11 wherein the at least one mounting stud of the wall plate comprises an upper mounting stud and a lower mounting stud and wherein the slot of the base comprises an upper slot and a lower slot for receiving the upper mounting stud and the lower mounting stud, respectively, of the wall plate.

14. A housing according to claim 11 wherein the cover comprises at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom for removably mounting a wall-mount telephone to the housing.

15. A housing according to claim 14 wherein the at least one mounting stud of the cover comprises an upper mounting stud and a lower mounting stud and the wall-mount telephone has an upper slot and a lower slot for receiving the upper mounting stud and the lower mounting stud, respectively, of the cover to removably mount the wall-mount telephone to the housing.

16. A housing according to claim 11 further comprising a line cord having a phone plug attached at one end and wherein a portion of the line cord and the phone plug extend outwardly through an opening formed in the base of the housing.

17. A housing according to claim 16 wherein the base and the cover define a cavity therebetween and wherein the housing further comprises a phone jack and at least one auxiliary jack disposed within the cavity and accessible through the cover.

5 18. A housing according to claim 17 wherein the at least one auxiliary jack comprises a secondary phone jack and a digital subscriber line ("DSL") jack.

19. A housing according to claim 18 further comprising a filter circuit disposed within the cavity and electrically connected in series between the line cord and at least
10 one of the phone jack, the secondary phone jack and the DSL jack for delivering a filtered voice signal to the at least one of the phone jack, the secondary phone jack and the DSL jack.

20. A housing according to claim 16 further comprising a phone jack accessible
15 through the cover and wherein the phone plug is electrically connected to a phone jack on the wall plate and the phone jack of the housing is electrically connected to a wall-mount telephone.

21. A housing according to claim 11 further comprising a plurality of wire
20 terminating devices disposed on the base and selected from the group consisting of screw terminals, insulation displacement contacts (IDCs") and solder points.

22. A housing according to claim 11 further comprising a locking mechanism for securing the housing to the wall plate and wherein the locking mechanism is movable between an unlocked position and a locked position without the use of a tool.

5 23. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall plate to removably attach the base to the wall plate;

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto; and

10 means for locking the housing to the wall plate.

24. A housing according to claim 23 wherein the base and the cover define a cavity therebetween and wherein the locking means is disposed substantially within the cavity.

15 25. A housing according to claim 24 wherein the locking means comprises a slide lock having a grip portion adjacent one end and a stop portion adjacent the other end, the stop portion not obstructing the slot of the base in an unlocked position and obstructing the slot of the base in a locked position.

20 26. A housing according to claim 25 wherein the grip portion extends outwardly from the housing in the unlocked position and is substantially flush with the housing in the locked position.

27. A housing according to claim 26 wherein the slide lock has a recess formed therein and wherein the locking means further comprises a pair of opposed guide ribs extending inwardly from one of the base and the cover for guiding the stop portion
5 and a retaining rib extending inwardly from the other of the base and the cover into the recess to retain the stop portion between the guide ribs.

28. A housing according to claim 24 wherein the locking means comprises a push-button lock having an actuating portion adjacent one end and a stop portion adjacent
10 the other end, the stop portion not obstructing the slot of the base in an unlocked position and obstructing the slot of the base in a locked position.

29. A housing according to claim 28 wherein the actuating portion extends outwardly from the housing in the unlocked position and is substantially flush with
15 the housing in the locked position.

30. A housing according to claim 29 wherein the locking means further comprises a pair of opposed retaining clips extending inwardly from the base and the stop portion has a pair of opposed retaining posts for engaging the retaining clips to retain
20 the stop portion in the locked position.

31. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall plate to removably attach the base to the wall plate;

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto, the base and the cover defining a cavity therebetween; and

5 a slide lock disposed substantially within the cavity and having a grip portion adjacent one end and a stop portion adjacent the other end, the stop portion not obstructing the slot of the base in an unlocked position and obstructing the slot of the base in a locked position.

10 32. A housing according to claim 31 wherein the grip portion extends outwardly from the housing in the unlocked position and is substantially flush with the housing in the locked position.

15 33. A housing according to claim 31 wherein the slide lock has a recess formed therein and the housing further comprises a pair of opposed guide ribs extending inwardly from one of the base and the cover for guiding the stop portion and a retaining rib extending inwardly from the other of the base and the cover into the recess to retain the stop portion between the guide ribs.

20 34. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall plate to removably attach the base to the wall plate;

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto, the base and the cover defining a cavity therebetween; and

a push-button lock disposed substantially within the cavity and having an actuating portion adjacent one end and a stop portion adjacent the other end, the stop
5 portion not obstructing the slot of the base in an unlocked position and obstructing the slot of the base in a locked position.

35. A housing according to claim 34 wherein the actuating portion extends outwardly from the housing in the unlocked position and is substantially flush with
10 the housing in the locked position.

36. A housing according to claim 349 wherein the housing further comprises a pair of opposed retaining clips extending inwardly from the base and the stop portion has a pair of opposed retaining posts for engaging the retaining clips to retain the stop
15 portion in the locked position.

37. A housing for mounting to a wall plate having a phone jack and at least one mounting stud protruding outwardly therefrom, the housing comprising:

a base having a slot formed therein for receiving the mounting stud of the wall
20 plate to removably attach the base to the wall plate;

a cover overlying the base and attached thereto, the base and the cover defining a cavity therebetween;

a line cord having a phone plug extending outwardly from the housing for electrically connecting the housing to the phone jack of the wall plate;

at least one phone jack electrically connected to the line cord and accessible through the cover for electrically connecting a telephone to the housing; and

5 a filter circuit disposed within the cavity and electrically connected in series with the line cord.

38. A housing according to claim 37 further comprising at least one auxiliary jack electrically connected to the line cord.

10 39. A housing according to claim 38 wherein the at least one auxiliary jack comprises a secondary phone jack and a DSL jack.

40. A housing according to claim 39 wherein the filter circuit is electrically
15 connected in series between the line cord and at least one of the phone jack of the housing, the secondary phone jack and the DSL jack to deliver a filtered voice signal to the at least one of the phone jack of the housing, the secondary phone jack and the DSL jack.

20 41. A housing according to claim 37 wherein the line cord of the housing is configured for a first telephone line and a second telephone line and wherein the filter circuit delivers a filtered voice signal to only one of the first telephone line and the second telephone line.

42. A housing according to claim 37 wherein the line cord of the housing is configured for a first telephone line and a second telephone line and wherein the filter circuit delivers a filtered voice signal to both the first telephone line and the second telephone line.